APRA AMCOS

APRA AMCOS tunes up application performance to take on explosive growth in digital streaming market.

Who Is APRA AMCOS?

APRA AMCOS is a music rights organization representing over 100,000 songwriters, composers and music publishers. APRA AMCOS licenses organizations to play, perform, copy, record, or make available its members' music, and distributes the royalties to its members. APRA AMCOS is affiliated with similar collecting societies around the world. So when Australian and New Zealand songs and compositions are performed overseas, Australian and New Zealand writers get paid. APRA AMCOS also helps music customers in Australia and New Zealand access music from the rest of the world.

> **"When we first invested in COBOL decades ago, who would have thought that streaming music would even be a thing? But here we are, and it is testimony to the longevity of COBOL and the strategic direction of Micro Focus (now part of OpenText™) that we are successfully riding the digital transformation wave in our industry."**

MARK ATKINS
Business Support and Infrastructure Manager
APRA AMCOS

Massive Increase in Streaming Music Data

Music is a fantastic example of how digital transformation can revolutionize an industry. With the rise of streaming music through Spotify, YouTube, Apple Music etc. APRA AMCOS has seen its revenues increase exponentially. While this is great news for APRA AMCOS members, it was starting to create a technology challenge, as Mark Atkins, Business Support and Infrastructure Manager for APRA AMCOS, explains: "Our success was putting a strain on our systems. We use a suite of thousands of COBOL programs to ingest music data from large XML files sent by digital music providers, process them, and calculate what royalties are due to our members. We ran Micro Focus (now part of OpenText™) Net Express on a dated Solaris-based hardware infrastructure, and we saw our performance deplete rapidly, as data volumes increased. It got to the point where it would take weeks to process our monthly payment report; clearly not a scalable solution. As our pan regional licensing service continues to grow, we needed a greater performing system.

APRA AMCOS is heavily invested in COBOL, with over one million lines of code (LOC) and it is central to its core business. COBOL is used to run a matching process that compares incoming music reports against a Sybase database

At a Glance

■ **Industry**
Entertainment

■ **Location**
Australia

■ **Challenge**
Accommodate massive increase in streaming music data locally and globally, by modernizing a dated IT infrastructure

■ **Products and Services**
Micro Focus Visual COBOL

■ **Critical Success Factors**
+ 200% performance increase following COBOL upgrade combined with commodity hardware platform
+ Smooth upgrade with 1 million Lines of Code (LOC) migrated in 1 week
+ Scalable solution for multi-territorial digital hub
+ Prompt payment to music creators

opentext

Connect with Us
[OpenText CEO Mark Barrenechea's blog](#)

of 23 million musical works. Atkins and the team wanted to reuse the existing code base and business intelligence it contained, without having to redevelop or retest the solution. The application is far too customized to replace with a commercial solution, and so APRA AMCOS looked to OpenText™ and its next-generation COBOL solutions. Atkins comments: "We have so much technical investment and history with COBOL, and we trust Micro Focus (now part of OpenText™) to help us accommodate the massive growth in streaming data."

200% Performance Boost

APRA AMCOS chose a Linux-based Red Hat platform and was pleased to see that Micro Focus™ Visual COBOL by OpenText™ includes a native code generator which means the COBOL application is optimized for the new platform. The RDBMS in use is Sybase, and Visual COBOL provides support for this so that all existing processes, in particular the matching process, remains operational. Atkins praises the rapid and simple implementation process: "We implemented the new hardware infrastructure, installed the [Micro Focus] Visual COBOL compilers, and Micro Focus (now part of OpenText™) assisted us in migrating the COBOL code which was remarkably easy; hardly any changes required. We were live in the new environment within a week."

The performance boost was instant. "We saw a performance jump of 200 percent straightaway!", confirms Atkins. "Of course,

we modernized hardware and software, and moved from a 32bit to 64bit environment, so it is difficult to attribute this to one thing, but we were delighted." Throughout a given month, reports will come in via DropBox, email, FTP, and other means. These are queued up to be processed, and then run sequentially. Multiple instances of Micro Focus Visual COBOL are leveraged to take advantage of multi-threading capabilities so that the batch jobs run faster. Reports that used to take nine days to process are now finished in about 15 hours instead; a 93 percent improvement. Music creators are paid on time and all APRA AMCOS' obligations are met.

Riding the Wave of Digital Transformation

The new infrastructure was initially used to accommodate the pan regional digital licensing hub, but will be extended into the domestic markets of Australia and New Zealand. Atkins wants to integrate more of the APRA AMCOS systems into the Micro Focus Visual COBOL process, to run a more streamlined business. He also has plans to take APRA AMCOS to the cloud: "We can see the potential with [Micro Focus] Visual COBOL to deploy code, scale up to process a big job, and then scale back down again when it's finished. A cloud strategy would make a lot of economic sense to us, and we are pleased that [Micro Focus] Visual COBOL supports the Docker container platform, increasing our application deployment flexibility."

Atkins concludes: "When we first invested in COBOL decades ago, who would have thought that streaming music would even be a thing? But here we are, and it is testimony to the longevity of COBOL and the strategic direction of Micro Focus (now part of OpenText™) that we are successfully riding the digital transformation wave in our industry."

Learn more at
www.microfocus.com/opentext

Platform	Lines of Code (LOC)	Relational Database support
■ Linux Red Hat	■ 1 million COBOL	■ Sybase

opentext™